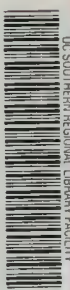


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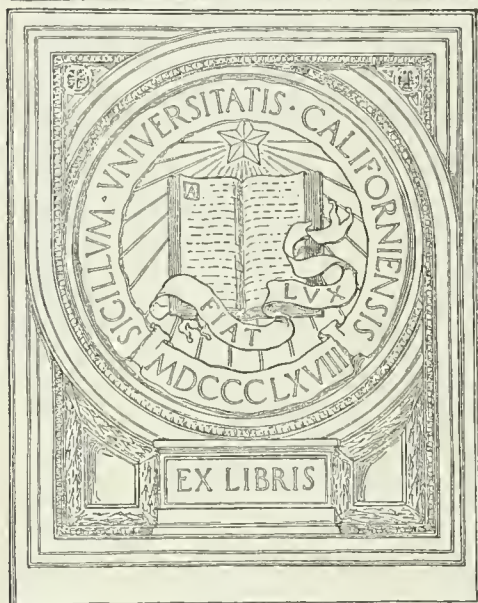
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AN

EULOGY,

ILLUSTRATIVE

OF THE LIFE, AND COMMEMORATIVE OF THE BENEFICENCE

OF THE LATE

HON. JAMES BOWDOIN, ESQUIRE,

WITH NOTICES OF HIS FAMILY;

PRONOUNCED IN BRUNSWICK, (MAINE)

AT THE REQUEST

OF THE TRUSTEES AND OVERSEERS

OF

BOWDOIN COLLEGE,

ON THE

ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT, SEPT. 2d, 1812.

BY

WILLIAM JENKS, A. M.

PASTOR OF A CHURCH IN BATH, AND SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

“ ——— sui memores alios fecere merendo.”

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY JOHN ELIOT, JUN.

1812.

1918

THE
JOURNAL OF THE
ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
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EXTRACTS FROM THE COLLEGE RECORDS.

“ MAY 19th, 1812.

“ In the Board of Trustees,

“ Voted, That, in consideration of the great munificence of the late Honourable
 “ JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq. toward this Institution, and the interest taken
 “ by it in his lamented decease, it is expedient and becoming, that pub-
 “ lic notice be taken of the event ; and therefore,

“ Voted, That the Secretary of this Board be requested to deliver, at the en-
 “ suing Commencement, an Eulogy on his memory.

“ In the Board of Overseers agreed to.”

“ In Board of Trustees, Sept. 2d, 1812,

“ Voted, That the thanks of the Trustees be presented to the Rev. William
 “ Jenks for the Eulogium delivered by him this day, commemorative of
 “ the public services and virtues of the late Hon. J. BOWDOIN, the lib-
 “ eral Benefactor of the College ; and a copy be requested for the press.

“ Attest,

“ Samuel S. Wilde, Sec'ry pro tem.”

“ In Board of Overseers,

“ Read and agreed to,

“ Attest,

“ John Abbot, Sec'ry.”

*Gentlemen, Trustees and Overseers
of
Bowdoin College,*

WHILE I rise, in compliance with your appointment and request, to attempt an expression of your respectful gratitude toward our distinguished, departed Benefactor, you will have occasion, I fear, to regret with me some disadvantages, under which this publick address is made.

If we expect from the skill of the painter that his portrait of a beloved friend shall faithfully exhibit the countenance and lineaments, which characterise the object of our affection, we must give to the artist the fairest opportunity of beholding the features we would preserve ; for they must be familiar to his eye before they can be transferred to his work. No mere description of ours would persuade him to commit his art, or reputation.

Biography, in like manner, owes its sweetest charm, and is indebted for its most powerful effect on the heart to that fidelity, with which it portrays lineaments of

moral character observable only in familiar intercourse, and with which it describes the ever varying circumstances and occurrences of life, that have so great influence in forming the character such as it is.

But my mind is greatly relieved from the embarrassment, under which an inability to avail myself of the advantages of personal friendship, or of an extensive enquiry among the confidential associates of the late Honourable Mr. BOWDOIN has laid it, by reflecting that he has so well been known, been held in so high esteem among our publick men, and his talents and patriotism so tried; and that his more private character has been so fully represented to the world by those,* who had the best means of knowing it, that his reputation needs not the aid of my feeble endeavours for its illustration and perpetuity. It stands secure on its own basis. I console myself too with the thought, that I address several, whose early and continued intercourse with him must have given them that knowledge, which will amply supply the defects of my own information; and that the regret expressed so widely for his removal from the

* Rev. T. M. HARRIS, minister of Dorchester, the place of Mr. BOWDOIN's residence for several years, published "a tribute of respect to" his "memory;" and the late beloved and lamented Mr. BUCKMINSTER, pastor of the Church in Brattle-square, where the family had long worshipped, permitted an extract of his sermon, delivered the Lord's day after Mr. BOWDOIN's interment, to meet the public eye. A well written "obituary notice" appeared also in the newspapers, and with the former is preserved in a 4to. pamphlet.

scenes of his usefulness testifies the regard of those, who witnessed his honest and beneficent exertions.

Ingratitude, however chargeable on political Republics, has never been attached to the members of the Republick of Literature. They have attempted to show at least their sense of obligation to its patrons, by recognising their claims, and on the broad scale of general history those appear with most lustre, who have most distinguished themselves by encouraging sciences and arts.

“Sint Mæcenates, non deerint unquam Marones.”

This Literary Institution bears the family name of BOWDOIN. While we dwell then with peculiar interest on the memory of that munificent benefactor, who lately bore it, and whose death since its last anniversary calls forth the present tribute of gratitude and respect, it cannot be deemed an unappropriate employment, to trace the steps, by which the wise and holy Providence of God reared up this family to eminence and usefulness. Let me then ask the indulgence of this audience, as I attempt to show on what just grounds the name of BOWDOIN may claim the distinction of illustrious.

The ancestors of this family were French Protestants residing in the neighbourhood of Rochelle. Their antient armorial bearings indicate an honourable descent,

and the name has not been inconsiderable in France. Individuals of the family, while residing in that country, have indulged a feeling congenial to our hearts in visiting the patrimonial domain of their forefathers ; and Mr. BOWDOIN enjoyed the opportunity, which some others also of his countrymen have shared, of reflecting on the wonders of that inscrutable Providence, by which the descendants of exiled Protestants have been sent as publick functionaries to a Court, which wreaked its unhallowed vengeance on their unoffending progenitors. “Whoso is wise,” says a sacred writer, “and will ob-
“serve these things, even they shall understand the lov-
“ing kindness of the Lord.”*

“History,” it has been said, “is philosophy teaching by example.” It derives its practical value from the display it makes of the human character. But this display is not confined to the revolutions of empires, and the pomp of princes, courts and armies. It may be conspicuous in the private individual. The accurate biographer then is the most instructive historian. Of how many individuals and families, as well as of states and kingdoms, would an impartial, discriminating history be a publick benefit ?

* Psalm cvii. 43.

We venerate the “Pilgrims of Leyden.” The day, on which they landed upon the shores of this then unexplored and unknown country, is observed as a festival. And not only is it thus noticed in the town, where they first obtained a settlement, but in the two capital cities of the Northern States this honourable remembrance of their piety, enterprise and sufferings is annually maintained.

As yet however no day brings to remembrance the heroism, sufferings and piety of the expatriated Protestants of France. Their descendants have mingled in the mass of our countrymen, and satisfied, as would seem, with enjoying the common blessings of our freedom, aspire to no peculiar distinctions among their fellow citizens, but such as arise from serving the community.

Not that we are to consider all the troubles, which France endured after the introduction of the Reformation, and which had connexion with religious disputes, as grounded wholly on religion itself. Our honoured countryman, the sagacious author of “Lectures on Davila,” has taught us clearly to perceive, that religion was in most cases but the pretence, and ambitious rivalries of principal families the real cause of the greater part of these troubles. It is true “no other part of the reformed

“ church suffered so grievously as they did for the sake
 “ of religion.”* For the Reformation had been early introduced, and principally from Geneva. She had thrown off the yoke of Savoy and France, soon after embracing these doctrines, having already allied herself, as an independent Republick, with the Swiss. These circumstances prepared the way for her prosperity. Here the eminent reformer, Calvin, sought an asylum, and with indefatigable zeal and great success promulgated his opinions. Thus, “ about the middle of the sixteenth century,” the reformed churches of France, “ without exception, entered into the bonds of fraternal communion with the church of Geneva.”

Soon after, the civil wars began to deluge the kingdom in blood. The young prince of Navarre, head of the house of Bourbon, became chief of the Huguenots, as in derision the Protestants were named. The duke of Guise, and his equally ambitious brothers endeavoured to extirpate them. In 1562 the admiral COLIGNY sent a colony of these Protestants to North America. They landed and settled near the place, as some suppose, where now is Charleston, in Carolina.† But the Spaniards cut them off. In the same year was first shed

* Mosheim.

† Charlevoix, quot. by Dr. Holmes, Ann. 1562, notes. “ Cond. des François,” etc. p. 12.

the blood of Protestants in civil war, and fifty thousand were soon destroyed. The awful night of St. Bartholemew followed, and seventy thousand more, to the outrage of all law, humanity and policy, were murdered. Privileges had indeed been granted, but what could they avail against the barbarity of brutal power, and the frenzy of religious bigotry ? At length the king of Navarre mounted the throne of France, and, in gratitude for the aid of the Protestants, issued the famous edict of Nantes.

We must pause at this period to remark, that now the Protestants were allowed churches, funds to maintain their ministers, judges of their own persuasion, and the free printing of their books. They were eligible to all offices of state, and left in possession of a vast number of towns and strongly fortified cities, forming at that time, says VOLTAIRE, “ nearly the twelfth part of the “ nation.”

Among their strongest places, and first in importance to their cause, was the commercial and flourishing city of Rochelle. It was indeed the Geneva of France. The English favoured its enterprise and industry by sea. It possessed a territorial jurisdiction of considerable extent, and the right of coinage. It once contained upwards of seventy thousand souls, and had already formed the design of raising itself into an independent Republick, on

the model of the States of Holland, emancipated from Philip of Spain. "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

A weak minority, and an ambitious, inflexible minister, the Cardinal de Richelieu, succeeded the death of Henry IV. After many manœuvres of court policy, resort was had against the Protestants to open force. The second and most memorable siege of Rochelle* commenced, and the bold genius of Richelieu, imitating the exploits of Alexander at Tyre, threw across the bay of the city an immense mole, "which curbed the sea, and the citizens of Rochelle." It was taken after a year of extreme suffering. It had been defended by a woman, the heroic mother of the duke de Rohan, who, though in her 75th year, exhibited a prodigy of fortitude. Its inhabitants were now reduced from fifteen to four thousand, and though not denied the exercise of their religion, were yet debarred the enjoyment of all other privileges.

Soon after the restoration† of Charles II. a minister of Rochelle and doctor of divinity applied to the legislature of Massachusetts for leave to settle with a part of his flock in her territory, and it was granted.

* See note A.

† Hutchinson, 1664. See Rev. Dr. HOLMES' "Amer. Annals," 1666, note 3.

The situation of Protestants in France grew daily more distressing. Louis XIV. was resolved to use every method to convert them to the faith of Rome. At length, after many cruel and oppressive proceedings, their ministers were banished. The flocks followed, as was natural. This alarmed the court. Guards were placed around the kingdom, but they migrated still.

The wise and discerning Colbert, to whose prudent moderation, skill and industry, France was principally indebted for her commercial and naval prosperity, had encouraged the Protestants, as merchants, artists, manufacturers and mariners. At his death another influence prevailed ; and when, in 1685, the revocation of the Edict of Nantes took place, the loss sustained by France in her population was chiefly of men most useful to the State. Six hundred thousand* of her subjects, in consequence of this weak, impolitick and cruel measure, quitted the kingdom, rather than violate conscience.†

Holland, England, Denmark, Prussia, Switzerland, and peculiarly Geneva opened wide their arms to receive the exiles. France was impoverished, and these states enriched by the subduction of their manufactures and wealth.

* Russell, Mod. Eur.

† Note B.

But many of them had left all their estate, and fled only with life. The parliament of England voted fifteen thousands pounds sterling for their relief. Even James assisted them, and William, who had favoured them greatly in Holland, forming three entire regiments, and manning several of his ships with their bravest men, now aided them in reaching his colonies in America. Some went first to Ireland, and afterwards came to this country ; and among this latter class was PIERRE BAUDOUIN.*

The ancestor of our departed patron landed at Casco in 1688. Two years after, he went to Boston ; happily experiencing the kind protection of God's providence in escaping the general massacre by the Indians. It was effected on the day following his removal.

Let us again pause to notice the fortunes of these wanderers for religion. It may be conjectured, that, at different times, more than a thousand sought an asylum in these States. Several settled in Virginia,† and among them a brother of the family of BOWDOIN. Many went to Carolina.§ Some found refuge in New York.¶ Subscriptions were raised for the relief of the necessitous. The friends of humanity were not inactive.

* Note C. † Beverly. § Note D. ¶ Note E.

And of these the name of Byrd* of Virginia deserves peculiar honour.

But their best dependence was the favour of God, and their own religion, industry and temperance. With these the father of Governour BOWDOIN acquired an immense estate, lived in esteem and honour, and transmitted to his posterity the means of beneficence.

A church had been erected by the French Protestants in Boston in 1686,† and was the first they founded in America. Here they worshipped in peace the God of their fathers. But their descendants, finding the same doctrines generally preached, as they became connected with other families, gradually forsook their appropriate house ; and soon after the death of Mr. JAMES BOWDOIN,§ their minister ceased to officiate. It is not a little singular that this house of worship, in the year, which completed the century from the landing in America of this gentleman, who became its principal proprietor, was opened for the hearing of mass, and a New England convert to the faith of Rome has there performed the service. What a change of times and manners ! Nay, in that house, where worshipped those persecuted men, who fled from the bigotry of Louis XIV. have officiated

* See Beverly.

† Massa. Hist. Coll.

§ He died Sept. 4. 1747, æt. 71.

more than one reverend priest of the Romish faith, who, when the royal descendant of the French monarch had bled by the hands of his subjects on a scaffold, sought for themselves an asylum in this land of religious and civil freedom ; and found it where it was enjoyed by the descendants of Huguenots. What a triumph for a toleration, which it cost France a million of subjects to establish by the edict of Nantes.

Mr. BOWDOIN educated his son, the late honoured, beloved and lamented Governour of Massachusetts, at the principal seminary of New England, of which as well, as of his country, he became the delight and boast. His name is dear to Religion and Science. His useful life was devoted to their interests with uncommon assiduity, success and reputation. In early youth he laid the foundation of solid knowledge, and by cultivating a taste for the mathematicks prepared himself to appear with distinction among the philosophers of our country. At the formation of the “ American Academy of Arts and Sciences” he was chosen President of that honourable body, and held the station until his death. He was President of the Convention, which formed the Constitution of Massachusetts, and governed the Commonwealth at a period, which required uncommon prudence, skill and firmness. He was honoured for his literary

acquisitions abroad, as well as at home ; and with the degree of Doctor of laws, bestowed by the University of Edinburgh, he was elected a member of the Royal Societies of London and Dublin.

But public honours were not his highest praise. He was a humble believer in the gospel of the meek and lowly JESUS. His Christian walk, as a professor of religion with the church in Brattle Street, shone for more than thirty years, to the honour of the cause of CHRIST, with exemplary lustre.* At his death he bore ample testimony to his conviction of the truth of the gospel. His life had been a display of beneficence, and his last will showed how deeply the habit of doing good was impressed on his mind. From his father he had at an early age inherited an ample fortune ; yet it did not hinder him from passing a life of strict industry. He pursued a regular course of study, and found its labour a pleasure. His library, consisting of more than twelve hundred volumes, he bequeathed, together with one hundred pounds, to the American Academy. Four hundred pounds were assigned to Harvard University, of which he had been Fellow, for peculiar literary purposes, beside his donations to the library and philosophical appa-

* See Rev. Mr. ALLEN's biogr. dict. &c.

ratus. Nor could the son of one, who had risen from the humble walks of life to ease and affluence, forget the poor of the church of God.

“He was always ready,” says one of his biographers, the modest and learned JORTIN of New England, “to promote every literary, benevolent and religious institution. He exhibited the virtues of social life in all their engaging lustre, and breathed a Christian spirit.”*

This great and good man was born in 1727, and died 1790,† leaving a daughter, the wife of Sir JOHN TEMPLE, sometime Consul General of Great Britain in the United States, and a son, the peculiar subject of this address.

We must not omit to remark, that, contemporary with the Governour, and shining in the first rank among the ornaments of America, flourished DE LANCY, LAURENS, the philanthropist BENEZET,§ BOUDINOT and JAY, de-

* Dr. ELIOT's N. Eng. biogr.

† ELIZABETH, daughter of JOHN ERVING, esq. of Boston, and relict of Governour Bowdoin, presented to the College at Brunswick one hundred pounds sterling, toward the purchase of a suitable library. With this sum several of the most valuable books, by the selection of President McKEEN, were obtained in England, and by the kind and gratuitous attention of her brother, resident in London, forwarded to America. Madam BOWDOIN also presented to the Hallowell Academy three hundred acres of land, lying originally in that town, with liberty afterward granted to sell the same, and to apply the interest arising from the proceeds “towards the encouragement of the good and useful education of children (especially poor orphan females, or such whose parents are unable to educate them) in such manner as in the discretion of the trustees for the time being shall be thought most conducive to the object intended by the donation.” The land was sold afterward for one thousand dollars.

§ Note F.

scendants, like him, from French expatriated Protestants. Three of these have presided in the continental Congress.

The late Honourable JAMES BOWDOIN Esquire, only son of the Governour, was born Sept. 22, 1752. Under the watchful care, and able instruction and advice of a father so judicious, tender and learned, he enjoyed every advantage of education. Before he had attained the age of twenty, he received the first honours of Harvard College,* and sailed for England, where he spent ten months at the University of Oxford, in the study of law. After this he travelled in the island, and at the expiration of two years, having increased his knowledge of men, and acquaintance with the most interesting objects, returned to his native land.

At home a year only was spent before he crossed again the Atlantick, and visiting first the Italian States proceeded by the way of Holland to England. The news of the battle of Lexington interrupted his pursuits in that country, and he returned in September after to share, as he hoped, the dangers and the glory of his compatriots. But the fond feelings of a father prevented him from joining the army to suffer its fatigue and distress. He had however the satisfaction of accompanying its beloved General in his entrance of Boston† on the

* In 1771.

† Note G.

memorable 17th of March 1776, when the troops of Britain abandoned the town. He was with him also while preparing a lodgment on the heights of Dorchester in the stillness and secrecy of night, a measure productive of the happiest effects to the American arms.

Governour BOWDOIN was a frequent and able political writer during the disputes with the mother country. His pen, his eloquence and learning had rendered him obnoxious to the ministry, and to the provincial governors commissioned by the crown. His son could not but partake these feelings and the spirit of the times. He lived in the midst of discussions most interesting to a patriot. His youth was passed among the statesmen of his country. The zealous, benevolent and learned HOLLIS had for a long time been bestowing books on the library of Harvard College. After its conflagration, in 1764, he was indefatigable to repair the injury. He had himself the preceding year sustained the loss of a fine collection, intended for that College, by fire ; “ How-
“ ever,” says he, in the true spirit of unabated resolution, “ I will work on with courage, sure of the noble-
“ ness of my ends, and pray God to grant me resigna-
“ tion if they should be disappointed, or gratitude and
“ humility, if, as I still hope, they should succeed.”*

* Mem. of HOLLIS, p. 239.

This truly *ingenuous* Englishman, in the range and direction of his literary beneficence, effectually refuted the seeming paradox, that a loyal subject of the monarchy in Britain might be an ardent and intelligent friend to the cause of freedom in America. The books he sent were often political, and of a republican stamp. And it remains for the perspicacity of our historians to ascertain what influence his benefactions and correspondence had in kindling that spirit, which emancipated these States from the shackles of colonial subserviency, by forming the "high minded men,"* who, under Providence, achieved our independence.

Doubtless at that favoured seminary, and at the time, in which Mr. BOWDOIN was educated, he drank deeply of the writings of MILTON, HARRINGTON, SYDNEY, LUDLOW, MARVELL and LOCKE. These were then, by Mr. HOLLIS's exertions,† political text books. And the eminent men of that day were

"By antient learning to the enlightened love

"Of antient freedom warmed."§

Before the close of the war Mr. BOWDOIN altered his state of life, and became the husband of a lady of his own name and family, daughter of a half brother of his father, who now survives ; and long may she survive,

* Sir WM. JONES, tr. of *ALCÆUS*.

† Note H.

§ THOMSON.

the beloved patron of an Institution, which perpetuates, with his, her own honoured name, and cannot, I trust, but be the subject of her good wishes and prayers.

In filling the offices successively of a Representative, Senator and Counsellor, Mr. BOWDOIN evinced his integrity and talents. His time, which now was chiefly spent in Dorchester, was occasionally occupied in Boston. He was increasing his general acquaintance with literature, of which he ever was fond, and in which he evinced a cultivated taste.

The foundation of a College in this place, a place, which bears the name of a family* so dear to HOLLIS, and to lovers of liberty upon the principles of that revolution, which he delighted to remember—a name, too, worthy to be revered by those, who wish well to the cause of Evangelical Missions in the East,† could not but appear an important event to the mind of Mr. BOWDOIN. The grant of the Legislature to the new College was liberal and wise ; and not long after the incorporation a letter was received from its patron, bestowing one thousand acres of land, and three hundred pounds. Soon after a further sum of eight hundred and twenty three pounds and four shillings was bestowed,

* BRUNSWICK.

† See the letters of GEORGE I. to the missionaries ZIEGENBALG and GRUNDLER, republished by Dr. BUCHANAN.

with a “ request that the interest thereof may be applied to the establishment and support of a Professorship of Mathematicks and of natural and experimental Philosophy, and that the interest be added to the principal until a Professor shall be appointed.”

About this time Mr. BOWDOIN was chosen a Fellow of Harvard University, and retained the office seven years. He was also elected President of the Board of Overseers of this Institution, but on account of distance declined the honour. His kindness toward it was often expressed, and it was evident he was sensibly affected by its interests.

When we reflect on the situation of this College, in a rising country, containing a territory far larger than Ireland, with a population already of near a quarter of a million, we cannot wonder that a man of such benevolence, and a patriot of such worth, should interest himself for its welfare. To establish a seminary of such nature confers an honour most durable on its founder. He unknowingly consults the perpetuation of his own name and character, while providing the means, whereby thousands may be benefited. He rears a monument outlasting, and in value far exceeding brass and marble. This may immortalize the ingenious sculptor, by exhibiting a benefactor's form and looks ; but the

other stamps the character of his mind upon generations yet to come. And let me, before this audience, hazard the suggestion—*absit invidia verbo*—that the friends to the memory of WASHINGTON might better consult the good of that country, which he loved, by labouring to realize his noble plan of a NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, than by rearing a monument of bronze or stone. That plan may save the country. It was worthy of WASHINGTON. It would connect and assimilate our most influential men, and cause them to combine for the good of the whole ;* and, instead of supplying a foreign artist with means of luxury, would be training up artificers of our prosperity and happiness. God grant it to take effect, if it be consistent with His holy, sovereign will !

In the autumn of 1804 Mr. BOWDOIN received a commission from the President of the United States, as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Madrid. The object of this mission is understood to have been, to ascertain the eastern and western limits of Louisiana, which had recently been purchased, to negotiate for the Floridas, if expedient, and to seek compensation for repeated spoliations of American commerce.†

Although in ill health, Mr. BOWDOIN embarked for Spain, with his lady, May 10, 1805. His return was not

* Note I.

† Note J.

until the 18th of April 1808. His health allowed him to remain no longer. The main object of his embassy was frustrated, and he sought the shades of retirement, to employ his yet remaining strength in gentler and more grateful occupations, than the business of Courts.*

But he had not been unemployed abroad. The collection of books, which he made, on the subjects of his mission, show a conscientious care to fulfil his trust, and must have occupied time and skill. He was busied too in using influence for his country. In England and in France, for he visited both, and spent in Paris two full years, he exhibited the character of an upright, independent American. As proof that he had none of that sychophantick fawning, which too often disgraces courtiers, let it be remarked, that in England he was thought the friend of France, in France the friend of England. His country's cause would not suffer in *his* hands.

Here too he was mindful of this Literary Institution. Much of that valuable library, he has since bequeathed to BOWDOIN COLLEGE, was collected in France, and contains a selection of its literature and science. Here he formed his collections of minerals, metals and fossils, and the accurate and useful models of crystallography

* Note K.

deposited with them.* Appreciating the value of a knowledge of mineralogy to a young country, like this, he was anxious to give every possible facility to its study—and we trust his care will not be useless. Our mineralogical museum may rank among the most useful and perfect.

Much of his time after his return, Mr. BOWDOIN spent upon his family estate, the island Naushaun, in agricultural and pastoral improvements. He was not idle. His country will derive benefit from his labours. He employed himself on subjects connected with science or art. And, as on a former occasion he had, anonymously indeed, given the publick his “Opinions respecting the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain,”† he now consented that his translation of DAUBENTON’S “Advice to Shepherds and owners of flocks on the care and management of Sheep” should be published for the good of the community.§

Not long before his death he executed a deed to this College of a large tract of land, consisting of six thousand acres, lying in the town of Lisbon. This is dated in the close of July, 1811.

On the 11th of the succeeding October, worn down with infirmities, which he bore without murmurs, he

* Note L.

† Note M.

§ Note N.

surrendered up his life into the hands of God, who gave it.

By his will, beside what has already been mentioned, he bestowed on the College his extensive and costly collection of paintings, several articles of philosophical apparatus, and the reversion of some rich estates, including the valuable island of his frequent residence, on failure of issue male of the present devisees.

In contemplating the character thus imperfectly represented, and in recalling the mild, humane and manly features of it, our regret for the loss of a member of society so valuable is greatly enhanced. When social intercourse is interrupted by the unwelcome intrusion of the ruder passions of corrupt nature, and the delightful bonds, which link man to man, are severed by the jealousies of political contentions, and party rivalships, we look for those, who may stand in the breach, and heal the wound. Of this number he was one. Some too can form but ineffectual wishes to do good. Others may possess ability and no inclination. Though rare, yet happy is the union of benevolent feelings with ample means to indulge them. In him this union was found.

My friends ; we are all fellow pensioners on the bounty of that God, before whom we are to render the ac-

count of our trust. Time, wealth, understanding, every moral and physical ability, station, influence, and all temporal advantages are *talents*. We abuse them at our peril. In the use of them we are to glorify their Bestower. Let me, then, remember my duty, as a minister of CHRIST. “CHARGE *them, that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living GOD, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy ; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate ; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*”*

* 1 Timo. vi. 17, 18, 19.

NOTES.



A. p. 12.

AMONG the singularities of history is the fact, that, when Charles I. of England sent a naval armament to the assistance of France, in 1625, all the seamen, with the exception of one man, deserted rather, than suffer themselves to be employed against their Protestant brethren of Rochelle. The man, who “preferred duty toward his king to the cause of religion,” was afterward killed before the city. Their admiral, Pennington, declared, “he would rather be hanged in England for disobedience, than fight against his brother Protestants in France. Hume. v. 6. p. 208.

In two ill-concerted and ineffectual expeditions, the English monarch afterward aimed at the relief of Rochelle. But the Protestant interest was crushed by the genius of Richelieu. Several of their leaders had deserted them for posts of power at Court; for, as says Voltaire, “in the higher pursuits of ambition men are strangers to shame;” and no allies were found among foreign nations of their own religion to give the needed support, since, as Hume, with perhaps equal truth observes, “all princes had ever sacrificed to reasons of state the interests of their religion in foreign countries.” Even the Dutch were made their enemies.

B. p. 13.

Our puritan ancestors, in their “Generall considerations for the plantation in New England, with an answer to several objections,” state the following: “Obj. 2. We have feared a judgment a long tyme, but yet we are safe; therefore it were better to stay till it come, and either we may flie then, or if we be overtaken in it wee may well be content to suffer with such a church as ours is. Ans. It is likely that this consideration made the churches beyond the seas as the Palatinate and Rochel, &c. to sit still at home, and not look out for shelter while they might have found it, but the wofull spectacle of their ruine may teach us more wisdom to avoid the plague while it is foreshene, and not to tarry as they did till it overtooke them. If they were now at

“their former liberty wee may be sure they would take other courses for their safety. And though most of them had miscarried in their escape, yet it had not been halfe so miserable for themselves, or scandalous to religion, as this desperate backsliding and abjuring the truth, which many of the antient professors among them, and the whole posterity that remayne are plunged into.” (Hutch. Coll. papers.) How strong the inducement to apostatise from Protestantism was made, by the artifice of the Catholicks and Court, we may judge by the following passage from “*Eclaircissemens Hist. sur la cause de la revoe. de l’Edit de Nantes*,” p. 89. “Dès ce temps-la, le Clergé avoit assigné, avec la permission du Pape, un fond de trente mille francs sur les revenus Ecclésiastiques, pour dédommager les Pasteurs Réformés, qui, en se convertissant perdroient leur état ; et ce fonds ne trouvant point d’emploi parmi les Pasteurs, étoit distribué à des Laïes, plus aisés à persuader.” The author places the commencement of Protestant emigrations at 1666. Happy, had they commenced a half century sooner.

It must not, however, be forgotten, that several emigrations of French Protestants into Canada took place occasionally in the period under review. But those, who loved the religion, for which they and their fathers suffered, finding greater congeniality of mind among the English and other Protestants, than among their own countrymen, generally joined them. Many must have apostatised. In France they had had synods, which united them into a compact body, and a clergy of two thousand ministers. Where are their remains ? We seem to be reading again the history of the churches of Asia minor. And what a lesson is taught us, when, although it be said, (Dr. Morse’s Univ. Geogr. last ed.) that now in Canada nine tenths are Roman Catholicks, no mention whatever is made of the existence there of a Huguenot church.

It is a subject of laudable curiosity to know where and in what state are the descendants of the associates of such men, as De Mornay, Daillé, Chamier, Bochart, and their venerable brethren. While the emigrant fathers of New England have founded a Church, which is now commencing an evangelical career of Missions even to India, where, alas, is the Protestant Church of France, once so respectable, great and promising ? “Let him, that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.”

C. p. 14.

By the kind condescension of Madam SARAH BOWDOIN to some enquiries of the author, and her obliging communication of copies of a few papers, he is able to enlarge his account in this and following notes.

Pierre Baudouin “left his native country and estates in the year 1685, and “embarked, with his wife and four children, in a small vessel, in which they “fled to Ireland. But not meeting with a satisfactory reception there, he undertook a dangerous, uncertain and expensive voyage to this country,” where he landed at Casco, and afterward removed to Boston. “He survived his arrival at Boston but a short time, dying under the pressure of misfortune, and “leaving his eldest son, James, then about seventeen, with the charge of the support of his mother, a younger brother, (who afterward settled in Virginia, and “left descendants) and two sisters. One of the sisters married M. Boutineau, a “French Protestant gentleman, who left his country likewise on account of his “religion, and was deacon of the antient French Protestant Church in School “Street, Boston.” His descendants yet live. “The other sister was never “married.”

The family of Pierre, following an example then very common among the French Refugees (as in the family of Le Jeune, for instance, descended of the house of Montmorenci, which became Younge) adopted a more English orthography, and spelt their name Bowdoin. Mr. James Bowdoin also left using the antient arms, *a lion, with a coronet as crest*, and adopted those retained by the family at present. Beside the Governour he had a son William, father of the present respected Relict of the late Hon. James Bowdoin Esq.

D. p. 14.

DR. Ramsay, in his history of South Carolina, mentions more than sixty names of families sprung from the expatriated Protestants of France, who settled under the ministry of Rev. Elias Prioleau; and gives an extract of a letter, written by a female of the number, painfully descriptive of the sufferings of the company. “Since leaving France,” said she, “we had experienced every “kind of affliction—disease—pestilence—famine—poverty—hard labour. I “have been for six months together without tasting bread, working the ground “like a slave, and I have even passed three or four years without always hav-

“ing it when I wanted it. God has done great things for us in enabling us to
 “hear up under so many trials. I should never have done, were I to attempt
 “to detail to you all our adventures : Let it suffice that God has had compas-
 “sion on me, and changed my fate to a more happy one, for which glory be un-
 “to him.” And well might the pious woman ascribe to God this glory, for
 her family was, in his providence, raised to much usefulness. She was mother
 of “Gabriel Manigault, who in a long and useful life accumulated a fortune so
 “large, as enabled him to aid the asylum of his persecuted parents with a loan
 “of \$220,000, for carrying on its revolutionary struggle for liberty and inde-
 pendence.” At his death he left also to a “Society in Charleston, a legacy
 “of 5000l sterling, from the interest of which it has been enabled to add very
 “considerably to the number of children educated on its bounty.”

From the same distinguished historian it appears, that in 1764, the Rev. Mr. Gibert, a popular preacher in France, “prevailed on a number of persecuted
 “Protestant families to seek an asylum in South Carolina.” They settled
 finally in a place called by them New Bordeaux, and were in number 212.

Dr. RAMSAY's hist. S. C. vol. I. pp. 5, 8, 19. II. 501, &c.

E. p. 14.

In the proceedings of the “Society for the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts,” incorporated by William III. is the following item, a few years after its establishment : “For the use of the inhabitants of *New Rochelle*, in the
 “same (*New-York*) Government, (who, under the influential ministry of the
 “Reverend Mr. *Boudet*, have built them a new Church of Stone for the Wor-
 “ship of God, and are many of them reconciled to the usages of the Church of
 “*England*,) 100 *French Common-Prayer Books* of a small sort, and 20 of a
 “larger Impression, according to their desire ;”—and also, “to Mr. *Elias*
 “*Neau* at *New York*, 100 small *French Books*, intituled, *Questions and An-*
 “*swers concerning the Two Religions*, viz. those of *England* and *Rome*, recom-
 “mended for the service of that, and other places where they should be adjudged
 “necessary, by Monsieur *Bonet*, the worthy Resident for his *Prussian Majes-*
 “*ty* here, and who has approv'd himself a very useful member of the Society.”
John de Puy, a schoolmaster on Staten Island, had also from the Society a
 salary of 10l. per annum ; and the above named M. Boudet 50l. “in considera-
 “of his great Learning and Piety, with his long and faithful Discharge of his
 “Office.”

F. p. 18.

THIS eminently active and benevolent friend of mankind, after instructing youth a great portion of his life, bent his chief endeavours to the benefit of the Blacks. For them he founded a school in Philadelphia, which the lovers of humanity must hope yet to see instrumental *in educating Negroes for Missionaries to Africa*, when the merciful Head of the Church shall prepare the way. His life was spent in exertions *to do good*.

G. p. 19.

As a particularity expressive of the state of Boston at that time, it may be noted, that Mr. Bowdoin, who was in the same boat with the General, took him to dine with his venerable grandfather Erying, when the best fare the town afforded their table "was only a piece of salted beef."

H. p. 21.

CONCERNING these efforts Mr. Hollis wrote, "More books, especially on government, are going for New England." Should those go safe, it is hoped that "no principal books on that FIRST subject will be wanting in Harvard College, from the days of Moses to these times. Men of New England, Brethren, use them for yourselves, and for others; and God bless you!"

"I confess," says he, "to bear prospensity, affection towards the people of North America; those of Massachusetts and Boston in particular, believing them to be a good and brave people: long may they continue such! and the spirit of luxury, now consuming us to the very marrow here at home, kept out from them! One likeliest mean to that end will be, to watch well over their youth, by bestowing on them a reasonable manly education; and selecting thereto the wisest, ablest, most accomplished of men that art or wealth can obtain; for nations rise and fall by individuals, not numbers, as I think all history proveth."

Memoirs, pp. 319, 339.

I. p. 24.

Extract from the *Will* of WASHINGTON.

“ — As it has always been a source of serious regret with me, to see the youth of these United States sent to foreign countries for the purpose of education, often before their minds were formed, or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happiness of their own; contracting too frequently, not only habits of dissipation and extravagance, but principles unfriendly to republican government, and to the true and genuine liberties of mankind; which thereafter are rarely overcome.—For these reasons, it has been my ardent wish, to see a plan devised on a liberal scale, which would have a tendency to spread systematic ideas through all parts of this rising empire, thereby to do away local attachments and state prejudices, as far as the nature of things would, or indeed ought to admit, from our national councils.—Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment of so desirable an object as this is (in my estimation) my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measure, than the establishment of a UNIVERSITY in a central part of the United States, to which the youths of fortune and talents, from all parts thereof, might be sent for the completion of their education in all the branches of polite literature; in arts and sciences, in acquiring knowledge in the principles of politics and good government, and (as a matter of infinite importance in my judgment) by associating with each other, and forming friendships in juvenile years, be enabled to free themselves, in a proper degree, from those local prejudices and habitual jealousies, which have just been mentioned; and which, when carried to excess, are never-failing sources of disquietude to the public mind, and pregnant of mischievous consequences to this country; under these impressions so fully dilated,

“ *Item.* I give and bequeath in perpetuity the fifty shares which I hold in the Potomack company—towards the endowment of a UNIVERSITY, to be established within the limits of the district of Columbia, under the auspices of the general government, if that government should incline to extend a fostering hand towards it; and until such seminary is established, and the funds arising on those shares shall be required for its support, my further WILL and DESIRE is, that the profit accruing therefrom shall, whenever the dividends are made, be laid out in purchasing stock in the bank of Columbia, or some other bank, at the discretion of my executors, or by the Treasurer of

“the United States for the time being, under the direction of Congress—provided that honourable body should patronize the measure ; and the dividend proceeding from the purchase of such stock is to be vested in more stock, and so on, until a sum, adequate to the accomplishment of the object, is obtained ; *of which I have not the smallest doubt, before many years pass away, even if no aid or encouragement is given by the legislative authority, or from any other source.*”

J. p. 24.

THE following was the tenor of Mr Bowdoin's first Commission—

“Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America, to James Bowdoin— Greeting.

“Reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Integrity, Prudence and Ability, I have nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate do appoint you, the said James Bowdoin, Minister Plenipotentiary for the United States of America at the Court of His Catholic Majesty ; authorizing you hereby to do and perform all such matters and things as to the said place or office doth appertain, or as may be duly given you in charge hereafter ; and the said office to hold and exercise during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being. In Testimony whereof, I have caused the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

“Given under my hand at the city of Washington the twenty second day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the twenty ninth.”

“By the President,

Signed,

“James Madison, Secretary of State.”

“Th. Jefferson.”

Which was afterward modified, as follows—

“Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America, To all and singular whom these presents shall concern : Greeting. Know Ye, That with a view to confirm harmony and friendship between the United States of America and His Catholic Majesty, by removing all grounds of dissatisfaction, and from a special Trust and Confidence in the Integrity, Prudence and Abilities of John Armstrong, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris, and James Bowdoin, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Madrid—I have nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the

“ Senate appoint them jointly and severally Commissioners Plenipotentiary and
 “ Extraordinary of the said United States ; hereby giving and granting to them
 “ and each of them full and all manner of power and authority, as also a general
 “ and special command, for and in the name of the United States, to meet, confer
 “ and treat with the Ministers, Commissioners, Deputies, or Plenipotentiaries
 “ of His said Majesty, or any of them, being furnished with sufficient authority
 “ of, and concerning the said territories of the said United States and of His
 “ Catholic Majesty, and also concerning all wrongful captures, and condemna-
 “ tions and other injuries, for which the parties may be responsible the one to
 “ the other, or the one to the citizens or subjects of the other.

“ In Testimony whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and
 “ the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

“ Given under my hand at the City of Washington, Seventeenth day of
 “ March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six, and of
 “ the Independence of the United States of America the Thirtieth.”

“ By the President,

Signed,

“ James Madison, Secretary of State.”

“ Th. Jefferson.”

K. p. 25.

MR. Bowdoin's health being such, as rendered it necessary for him to solicit a recal, he received from President Jefferson a letter dated “ Washington, July 40, 1807,” of which the following is an extract :

“ The way being now opened for taking your station at Madrid, it is certain-
 “ ly our wish you should do so, and that this may be more agreeable to you than
 “ your return home, as is solicited in yours of May 1. It is with real unwill-
 “ lingness we should relinquish the benefit of your services. Nevertheless if
 “ your mind is decidedly bent on that, we shall regret, but not oppose your re-
 “ turn. The choice therefore remains with yourself. In the mean time your
 “ place in the joint commission being vacated by either event, we shall take the
 “ measure rendered necessary by that.”

On Mr. Bowdoin's return to America he wrote to the President, and received the following in reply :

“ Dear Sir,

“ Monticello, May 29, 1808.

“ I received the favor of your letter written soon after your arrival, a little
 “ before I left Washington, and during a press of business preparatory to my

“departure on a short visit to this place. This has prevented my earlier congratulations to you, on your safe return to your own country. There, judging from my own experience, you will enjoy much more tranquil happiness of life, than is to be found in the noisy scenes of the great cities of Europe. I am also aware that you had at Paris additional causes of disquietude. These seem inseparable from public life, and indeed are the greatest discouragements to entering into, or continuing in it—perhaps however they sweeten the hour of retirement, and secure us from all dangers of regret. On the subject of that disquietude, I found in it no cause of dissatisfaction with yourself, nor of lessening the esteem I entertain for your virtues and talents; and had it not been disagreeable to yourself, I should have been well pleased that you could have proceeded on your original destination.”——

“You find us on your return, in a crisis of great difficulty. An embargo had, by the course of events, become the only peaceable card we had to play. Should neither peace, nor a revocation of the decrees and orders in Europe take place, the day cannot be distant when that will cease to be preferable to open hostility. Nothing just or temperate has been omitted on our part to retard, or to avoid this unprofitable alternative. Our situation will be the more singular, as we may have to chuse between two enemies, who have both furnished causes of war. With one of them we could never come into contact; with the other great injuries may be mutually inflicted and received. Let us still hope to avoid, still we prepare to meet them.

“Hoping you will find our cloudless skies, and benign climate more favorable to your health than those of Europe, I pray you to accept my friendly salutation, and assurances of great esteem and consideration.”

Signed,

“Th : Jefferson.”

L. p. 26.

WHILE this subject passes in review, the author will be allowed to remark that the assiduity of the Professor of natural and experimental Philosophy, who for several years has also lectured on chemistry and mineralogy, has tended to render these branches, among their other pursuits, peculiarly interesting to students. And it may be observed in general that, in proportion to their numbers, BOWDOIN COLLEGE has furnished at least a usual quota of sound, well read scholars. Its library, though still considerably deficient in classical and biblical literature, probably ranks now as the third among those, which supply the

Colleges of New England with employment. Its philosophical apparatus may be considered as very nearly complete. Its immediate government is composed of the Reverend President, two Professors and two Tutors. The number of pupils being yet small, the share of personal attention to be enjoyed by each offers an advantage by no means to be overlooked.

Yet although the state of this Institution may be denominated flourishing, its funds are at present in a great degree inactive, consisting much in lands, to the sale of which several impediments occur, from the state of the times. But should the prosperity of our country revive, and a demand be produced for the dormant property of the College, or should new benefactors arise, several plans of enlarging its influence, and benefit to the publick may be safely indulged, and its friends look forward with confidence to its extended utility.

Above all may it enjoy an interest in the prayers and correspondent efforts of the friends of religion, virtue and science—that a wise and holy God may bless it, as an instrument of raising up the pillars of the Church and State !

M. p. 26.

MR. Bowdoin's sentiments on one important branch of national legislation and executive provision must not be omitted. "——When we consider," says he, "the encouragement of navigation as contributive to the general defence, without going far into the history of ancient or modern nations, there are few or no instances of a country holding extensive colonies or possessions abroad, or of enjoying power or respectability at home, or among the neighboring states, without the aid of a maritime force. Navigation, as a nursery of sea-men, and as a mean of bestowing wealth and power, is found, by experience, to be among the first objects of national policy. The Carthaginians maintained their independence, and were successful rivals to the Roman power, as long as they preserved their naval superiority :—The most brilliant achievements of the Athenians were through the means of their fleets : 'The answer given by the oracle of Delphi to the Athenians, to fortify their city with wooden walls against the invasion of Xerxes, is an advice which has been successfully adopted by the French and English,'* and ought to be operative upon the citizens and government of the United States."

"*Opinions,*" &c. p. 59.

* Postlethwaite.

N. p. 26.

IF the most tender and respectful language of condolence, uttered by men, who occupy the first ranks in society, and mingled with approbation of her departed husband and his labours, can afford consolation to the afflicted WIDOW of Mr. BOWDOIN, as, after the infinitely important considerations of religion, it may justly be allowed; doubtless this lenient balm has been already acknowledged in the following letters, which are kindly permitted to enrich these notes, and with which they shall close.

“ Quincy, April 27, 1812.

“ Madam,

“ I pray you to accept my most respectful thanks for the present you have been so obliging as to send me of the Testimonies of Mr. Harris and Mr. Buckminster to the character and merits of Mr. Bowdoin: and especially for the elegant Copy of that very useful work, the Advice to Shepherds, than which a more patriotic present could scarcely have been made to this country. Though I was acquainted with this Volume and had esteemed and recommended it, I value it more highly as an expression of Remembrance from a Family, which for so long a tract of years I have held in esteem and respect.

“ I wish you, Madam, every Blessing and every Comfort that this World and this Country can afford, and when Nature and Providence shall ordain it, an easy and a triumphant transit to another and a better. I have the Honour to be, Madam, with great respect,

“ Your obliged and obedient servant,

“ John Adams.”

MR. MONROE, the present Secretary of State, between whom and Mr. Bowdoin a long and confidential friendship had subsisted, renders the following testimony to his friend, in a letter dated

“ Washington, March 25, 1812.

“ My dear Madam,

“ I was most sensibly affected by your last letter and the proof which it afforded of your friendly regard for me and my family. To your late most estimable husband I was much attached. Having long before our meeting in Europe highly respected his character, every circumstance which occurred there contributed to increase my personal regard for him, and my respect for his rare merit. I shall preserve and wear the testimonial which you have been

“so kind as to send me of our mutual friendship. Those sentiments could never have been effaced from my mind, but I am particularly gratified to receive from one so dear to him such a token of his distinguished esteem.”——

Your friend,

(Signed)

Ja's. Monroe.

“I possess a very interesting pamphlet written on a commercial subject by our late friend, and shall be happy to receive his translation of Daubenton's work for the management of Sheep, which your are so good as to promise me.”

The last mentioned volume being presented the PRESIDENT, was acknowledged in the following note :

“J. Madison has received the little volume which Mrs. Bowdoin has had the goodness to send him. The sensibility which he begs leave to express to her is much quickened by his high respect for the Memory of the distinguished Patriot, to whom the public is indebted for the valuable Legacy.”

“Washington, June 6, 1812.”

Respecting the same work and its Translator the following are the sentiments expressed by the former President :

“Th. Jefferson presents his respectful compliments to Mrs. Bowdoin, and his thanks for the book she has been so kind as to forward him. It is an interesting present to the American public, who owed so much before to the patriotism of its author, and to his steady views and efforts for the promotion of their best interests. With the public gratitude he is peculiarly bound to mingle his own, for the aid and support he received from him personally in administering the affairs of their common Country. Of this he knows no depositary to whom it may be committed with so much propriety, as to Mrs. Bowdoin, while he tenders to herself the homage of his high respect and consideration.”

“Monticello, June 24, 1812.”

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